



# **ELECTRICAL CURRENTS**

*Newsletter from the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector*

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Vol. 6 No. 5

May 2003

## ● **No Electrical Inspections In State Jurisdiction Areas—Tuesday, June 3, 2003**

All state electrical inspectors will be attending mandatory training at the Tumwater Labor and Industries Building on June 3, 2003. In many areas inspections may also be effected on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> due to travel time to and from Tumwater. This training is not open to the public.

Normally we attempt to provide all staff training in several locations on different dates or in half-day online teleconference sessions in order to minimize impact on inspection services and to minimize travel time loss. However, due to the late adoption of the rules and 2002 National Electrical Code (NEC), the lack of a transition period for enforcement of the 2002 NEC and new rules, the number and complexity of changes in the electrical statute, and the immediate adoption of a portion of the rules, we will provide a full day of training for all of our inspection staff in a one-time session in the Tumwater service location.

## ● **Adoption Of 2002 NEC And WAC 296-46B Will Be May 23, 2003**

**Chapter 296-46B WAC and the 2002 National Electrical Code (NEC) will become effective May 23, 2003.** Electrical permits purchased after the WAC effective date will be inspected under the 2002 NEC. Plan review projects received after the effective date will be under the 2002 NEC. All electrical certification examinations will be updated based on the 2002 NEC sometime in late summer. Very few questions will be affected by the change. Copies of the rules are posted now on the Electrical Program Web site at: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/scs/electrical/wac296-46B.pdf>.

Effective April 22, 2003 the Director of Labor and Industries adopted WAC 296-46B-020 and WAC 296-46B-900 through WAC 296-46B-965 to allow immediate access to the new electrical specialties made possible by action during the 2002 legislative session. Applications for the 03A, 06A(electricians only), 06B, 07, 07A, 07B, 07C, 07D, 07E, and 10 electrical specialty electrician, administrator, and contractor status are available today on our Web site or in our field offices.

About May 12, 2003 we will mail a copy of the new electrical rules (WAC 296-46B) to all electricians, master electricians, and administrators. There have already been changes affecting the electrical statute in this legislative session, so we will not print chapter 19.28 RCW until these changes to the statute are effective.

## ● **Next WAC Development Cycle Meetings Begin In Tumwater May 29, 2003**

The initial Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting will be **Thursday, May 29, 2003, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**, in the auditorium at the Labor and Industries building, 7273 Linderson Way SW, in Tumwater. The initial meeting will be to clarify the WAC development process, describe expectations, answer questions, and fill any remaining positions. This meeting is open to the public.

**The deadline for submitting your letter of interest in joining the TAC is May 23, 2003.** The TAC will have 27 members chosen from a wide cross-section of the electrical industry. TAC members will be notified of their appointment prior to the meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Details and timelines for meeting dates, and timelines for submitting proposals are included in a *Special Edition Electrical Currents* newsletter available on our 2003-2004 WAC Development Web page at:

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/scs/electrical/2003-2004wac/03-04wac.htm>.

**Proposals to modify WAC 296-46B must be made electronically** (e.g. compact disc, floppy disk, or as an email attachment sent to [electricalwac@lni.wa.gov](mailto:electricalwac@lni.wa.gov)) using the form supplied by the department. An electronic fill-in version of the form is available at the 2003-2004 WAC Development Web page address above. Electronic versions are also available upon written request to Chief Electrical Inspector, P.O. Box 44460, Olympia, WA, 98504-4460.

**● Bills From The 2003 Legislative Session That Affect The Electrical Program**

Legislation from this session supersedes the electrical WAC rules when a bill becomes effective, typically 90 days after the Governor signs it. The following is a synopsis of current legislative changes.

**SHB 1848**-Medical equipment may be installed and maintained by qualified factory engineers or third-party service companies with equivalent training. Installation does not include services, feeders, branch circuits, or conduits and raceways.

**ESB 5210**-Allows the 07C-restricted nonresidential maintenance specialty to have training requirements of less than two years to qualify for examination.

**SSB 5434**-Certified electricians and supervised electrical trainees may do electrical work for a nonprofit corporation.

**ESSB 5713**-This bill addresses these primary issues.

- Allows random inspection of basic electrical work (as adopted in rule).
- Allows either journeyman or residential plumbers and electricians to replace like-in-kind household appliances having electrical and limited waste and/or water connections.
- Allows exemption from licensing/certification for appliance repair done by employees of manufacturer-authorized dealer or service companies.
- Allows the 07E-equipment repair specialty to have training requirements of less than two years.
- Allows 07E-equipment repair specialty electrician certification for employees of factory-authorized equipment dealers and service companies and for machinists that have completed an approved apprenticeship without examination.

The complete text of these bills is available at: <http://search.leg.wa.gov/pub/textsearch/default.asp>

**● New Failed Certification Exam Review Procedures Effective April 22, 2003**

Certification examinations provide verification of skills learned during training; they are not “teaching tools” like examinations administered in schools or training programs. If a candidate wishes to contest an examination, a written request must be made to review the failed exam (see WAC 296-46B(6) and (7)).

To challenge an examination, you must pay a review fee (\$105.90). You will be given one hour to review the examination. You can only review the questions you missed and the answers you marked. The department will not supply you with the correct answers or allow you to review questions that you answered correctly. You must challenge enough questions to result in a passing score. All questions challenged must be supported by references to published books/standards to support your position. To protect the integrity of the questions, exam reviews will only be conducted in Tumwater. You may bring nothing into the review room. Notepaper to document your challenges and copies of the NEC, WAC, RCW, and other reference documents used to develop the examination will be provided by the department for use during the review.

**● Electrical Question of the Month**

**This Month’s Question:** Flexible cord used in a listed extension cord set, that is permitted to be supplied by a 20-ampere branch circuit must be constructed of \_\_\_\_\_ or larger copper wire. A) 12 AWG, B) 14 AWG, C) 16 AWG, D) 18 AWG.

**Last Month’s Question:** A junction box is connected to conduit that extends directly to the forming shell that supports a wet-niche underwater luminaire in a swimming pool. This junction box shall: A) be listed for the specific use and have more grounding terminals than conduit entries.; B) be bonded to the pool common bonding grid with a solid copper conductor not smaller than #6 AWG.; C) be made of brass, stainless steel, or other corrosion-resistant metal.; D) be protected from physical damage and mounted not less than 8 inches above the pool deck.

**● The answer is:** A) [2002 NEC 680.24(A)(1) and 2002 NEC 680.24(D)]